The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, according to its industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

Entered as second-class matter December 14, 1917, at the Post-office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

VOL. 9. NO. 34. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1919. WHOLE NO. 450

MINERS' INJUNCTION IS STILL IN EFFECT

Washington, Nov. 15.—While the miners have called off their strike, in obedience to a federal injunction Judge, the injunction still remains in force, and attorneys for the miners are preparing to carry the case to the federal court of appeals.

Secretary of Labor Wilson has issued a call to the miners and operators to meet in this city to adjust their dispute and both sides have accepted.

During the injunction proceedings the operators stood on the side lines while the miners were carrying their battle.

The miners will enter the wage conference with their power to strike taken from them.

FICKERT IS DEFEATED.

San Francisco, Nov. 15.—District Attorney Fickert, who secured the conviction of Thomas J. Mooney and others because of the bomb outrage in 1916, has been defeated for reelection by Police Judge Brady.

Fickert made an appeal to organized labor in which he said:

"I have made the labor record of any public official in the United States."

In his advertisements he insisted that the A. F. of L. and Samuel Gompers' organization and Mooney should not be supported by the trade union movement.

The district attorney attempted to create the impression that every advocate of a new trial for Mooney favors revolution, when the fact is that the American Federation of Labor insists on a new trial for Mooney because it is charged that the defendant was convicted by improper methods. Mooney's views have nothing to do with a plea for the law's orderly procedure.

In defense of this position attention is called to the statement by the trial judge who informed the state attorney general that if he had known of the perjury used against Fickert's leading witness before the case left his court he would "unhesitatingly" order a new trial.

The new district attorney has not announced his prosecution of the Mooney case, but it is suggested that as there are other murder indictments against Mooney, in order to finish with the bomb outrage, he can be tried on one of these. This will reopen the entire case.

BIG-PAY YARN NAILED.

Oklahoma City, Okla., Nov. 15.—Writing in the Oklahoma Administration, Edgar Fenton, president of the state federation of labor, has put the miners' big-pay yarn that is being so widely circulated.

The story agrees that the books of any company will show that many miners, who work by the ton, could total as high as $10 a day.

"A further investigation, however, will show that the amount credited for one day's work was earned over a period of two or three days, and the miner only receives credit for the coal mined when it reaches the surface, is placed on the dock and weighed.

"All mines in the state operated an average of 169 days. The average number of tons produced by each miner was 1,611, which on a tonnage basis made the average earnings for the year $1,771.11.

"The average amount expended by the miners for powder, fuse and caps, making the net annual earnings $971.84, or $5.74 per day.

"The miners here do not include oil, fuse, tools, blacksmithing, etc. which further reduce the average wage.

"The 2,602 day men employed in the mines averaged 246 for the year without making deduction for the expenses noted above, while the entire output at $4.36 per day averaged $832.14 for the year."

TO PUSH NON-UNIONISM.

Indianapolis, Nov. 15.—Metal trades manufacturers are uniting their employes to form a "non-partisan" contract that has been prepared by the associated employers of this city.

Under the agreement the employe pledges himself not to join a union while in the employ of the firm, before, or in any way aid or abet trade unionism. The contract was upheld by the United States supreme court in 1917 in the case of the United Mine Workers versus the Hitchman Coal and Coke Company of West Virginia.

The contract binds the employes to accept this individual contract and later when they saw the necessity of organization the injunction was issued against officers of the Miners' union. The same theory was applied in the case of the Flint Glass Workers versus the Eagle Glass company. In both cases the injunctions were upheld by the United States supreme court.

Local manufacturers have also succeeded in inducing the common council to pass an anti-picketing ordinance.

DEFENDS FOREIGNER.

San Francisco, Nov. 15.—"The attitude of smug, stiff-collared American respectability towards the lowly, despised alien who has sought refuge within our gates, is much the same as was the attitude of the Romans towards those of their neighbors whom they were pleased to call barbarians," writes Miltz Schenberg, of the Seamen's Journal.

"The use the Romans had for them was as slaves. Yet these same barbarians overran and conquered effete Rome, and eventually built a more worthy civilization upon the crumbling ruins of Rome's decadence.

"Is there no lesson in that for present-day America?"

INJUNCTION JUDGES, AHOY!

Washington, Nov. 15.—It is stated that nine-tenths of all the officers of the combatant army, who were in the regulars have resigned since the armistice was signed because their pay does not exist on salaries paid them. Over 3,500 officers have already quit and scores of resignations are in the hands of the president. Army authorities declare that the army is in a "very serious condition," and that officers are resigning who cannot be replaced and that the entire morale of the army is being weakened.

MANY MINERS KILLED.

Washington, Nov. 15.—The United States bureau of mines reports that 987 men were killed during August of this year in and about the coal mines of all states except Kentucky.

During the first eight months of 1919 1,300 men were killed by coal mine accidents in the United States.

BIG COAL STRIKE OFF; INJUNCTION OBEYED

Indianapolis, Nov. 11.—Acting President Lewis, of the United Mine Workers announced on Tuesday morning, November 11, at 4 o'clock, that the federal injunction issued against the nation-wide coal strike, at the request of the government, would be obeyed and the strike called off.

Industrial history was made in this country when Federal Judge Anderson signed the injunction prepared by the government ordering the miners' officials to rescind the strike order which was passed by the last convention of the union.

Previously the court had issued a restraining order, at the request of the government, by which the funds of the union were tied up and no action permitted by the officers or others that would tend toward making the strike effective.

As this injunction could not break the strikers' ranks, the government case asked the court, on November 5, for an injunction commanding the members of the union to obey the order. Judge Anderson agreed. The proceedings were marked by the court's statements that his mind was made up and that the miners' attorneys were wasting their time in attempting to argue.

The knowledge of the proceedings the court indicated that the right to strike was not applicable in this case, as none of the defendants had anything a living by working as miners. After the court dropped this fact on those who would defend his action, he graciously permitted the case to proceed with the theory that the defendants were agents of the miners and were acting under orders of their principals.

The court based his injunction on the broad and far reaching anti-trust laws which was intended, as declared by its advocates when adopted, not to be used against labor, but to help it improve their conditions. The court also based his action on the declaration in the Debs case, resulting from the A. R. U. strike in 1901.

The government's attorneys insisted that the Debs decision applied in this case to which the court agreed.

The government emphasized the danger to society and the sovereignty of the government in the case, and the miners were painted as conspirators who were actuated by a desire to challenge the government in a battle for supremacy. The government pledge.

"When any organization rises as a superior to the law it is a successful revolution."

This bombastic statement was taken seriously by the court who had previously refused the plea of the miners that the proceedings be postponed for a week in the hope that they and the operators could get together—a procedure that would seem out of place for real revolutionists.

Before the injunction the court ordered that the repeal of the strike section of labor's law not take effect until Tuesday morning, Nov. 11, at 10 o'clock, and that after he had w. l.'d the injunction signed the mails of the mails not later than 6 p. m. of the same day.

TEACHERS SHOULD ASSIST.

Washington, Nov. 15.—Participation by teachers in solving the larger problems of educational administration is indispensable to the "successful operation of the public schools," and a necessary preparation for the duties of democracy, according to a report just issued by the national education committee on emergency in education.

"Teachers working in the class room are the ones most familiar with the attributed ideas that have had a determining influence upon educational progress," says the report. "Through teachers' councils, through committees, through voluntary associations and through individual recommendations teachers have conserved themselves with the larger problems of educational administration to the great benefit of the schools.

"Boards of education and administrative officers in those communities that have made the greatest progress have recognized this principle. In many places, by rule of the board, or by invitation of the superintendent, teachers' organizations have been requested to make recommendations affecting courses of study, the adoption of text books, plans of building and equipment, the organization of special classes and special kinds of schools, and the formulation of budgets.

"We believe that this participation by teachers in the administration is the best development of the public schools. We believe that the teacher profession should be the right and responsibility of every teacher."

RUN OUT OF TOWN.

Johnstown, Pa., Nov. 15.—This city has maintained its reputation for upholding the latest brand of "Americanism" when Mayor Conroy, head of town and attempting the same Flint Glass Workers' union. The court injunctions were upheld by the United States supreme court.

Local manufacturers have also succeeded in inducing the common council to pass an anti-picketing ordinance.

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Pretense Of Miners' Opponents Stripped By A. F. of L.

Washington, Nov. 12.—Immediately after Judge Anderson issued his first injunction against the miners, a special meeting of the executive council of the A. F. of L. was called by President Gompers.

The executive council took its stand squarely behind the miners and stripped the pretense of the miners' opponents who attempted to defend the misuse of the injunction process by charging that "the law" must be upheld.

The trade union executives showed that the Lever act was never intended to apply in labor disputes and that on the larger question of injunctions the government asked the court in its usurpation of power by applying the injunction process to personal relations.

After reviewing the conditions under which the mine workers struck the executive council declared:

"The United Mine Workers, in their convention, held during the month of September in the city of Cleveland, adopted a patriotic declaration demanding improved conditions of employment for the miners. They further instructed the officers to present to obtain by negotiations with the operators the working conditions that the convention unanimously adopted.

"There were almost 2,000 delegates seated in the convention, representing the well organized miners. They further positively and unanimously instructed their officers that unless an agreement was reached by the 15th of the first day of November, 1919, that the resolutions of the convention calling for a strike on November 1 should be communicated to the members and there was no alternative except for the officers, who are elected by the membership, to carry out the direct instructions of the membership or resign from their positions. Failure to do this would result in chaos and confusion would result.

"The officers of the mine workers, with their scale committee, entered into conferences and discussions with the operators in the city of Buffalo. They stated at the conference that they were willing to negotiate an agreement. In other words, that they had the power to give and take in the matter of wages, but were refused to make any offer whatever. Later on the miners answered the call of the secretary of labor and attempted to reach an agreement, but failed. The officers then proceeded to carry out the instructions of their membership and communicated the results of the failure of negotiations, and by action of the convention the strike automatically took effect November 1, 1919.

"The circumstances which have existed for years and which has been successful in bringing about agreements, before this present time, no longer exist, and there by the agreements of mine workers are ready and willing to enter into negotiations without reservation to reach an agreement.

"At this time, our government interfered and issued an order for an injunction.

"A temporary restraining order was granted by a federal judge which restrains the officials of the miners from in any way advising their members on the situation, or contributing any of the moneys of the mine workers for the assistance of the men on strike, also restraining them from discussing, writing or entering into any kind of conversation with their membership on the strike situation.

"The government then proceeded to further invade the rights of the miners in that it attempted to restrain their officers and members from further discussing the strike. This order has not contended but went to further lengths of restraining from the court an order commanding the officers of the Miners' union to recall and withdraw the strike order, and the court compulsorily compiled and issued the order.

"Never in the history of our country has any such mandatory order been obtained by any agency of the government or by any person, company or corporation.

"Both the restraining order and the injunction, insofar as its prohibitory features are concerned, are predicated upon the Lever act, a law enacted by congress for the purpose of preventing speculation and profiteering of the food and fuel supply of the country.

"There never was in the minds of the congress of the United States, or in the mind of the president, when he signed it, that the Lever act would be applied to workers in cases of strikes or lockouts. The president, Mr. Hoover specifically so stated. Members of the committee, having the bill in charge, have in writing declared that it was not in the minds of the committee and the then attorney general, Mr. Gregory, gave assurance that the government would not apply that law to the workers' effort to obtain improved working conditions. Every assurance from the highest authority of our government was given that the law would not be so applied.

"In the course of President Wilson's address to the Buffalo convention of the American Federation of Labor, November, 1917, among other things, he said:

"'What we are fighting for freedom, we must see among other things, that labor shall be free. It means a number of interesting things. It means not only that we must do what we have outlined our purpose to do, see that the conditions of labor are not rendered more onerous by the war, but also that we shall see to it that the instrumentalities by which the conditions of labor are improved are not superseded. That we must do.'

"The autocratic action of our government in these proceedings is of such a nature that it staggers the human mind. It is an autocracy to conceive of a government which has not specifically and restraining order prohibiting the officials of a labor organization from contributing of the funds of labor for the purpose of procuring food for women and children who might be starving, is something that when known will shock the sensibilities of man and woman throughout the land. Surely the thousands of men who are living in France, under the soil, whose blood was offered for the freedom of the world, never dreamed that they would afterwards in their own country 450,000 workers endeavoring to better their conditions, and thereby would have the government decide that they no longer have the moral assistance of their fellow men and that their wives and children should starve, by order of the government.

"It is a well established principle that the inherent purpose of the injunction processes, where there is no other adequate remedy at law, was for the purpose of protecting property and property rights only, thereby exercising the equity power of the courts to prevent immediate and irreparable injury.

"It was never intended and there is no warrant of the law in all our jurisprudence to declare an injunction of equity courts to curtail personal rights or regulate personal relations. It was never intended to take the place of government by law or substituting personal and discretionary government.

"The Lever act provides its own penalties for violation of its provisions. The injunction issued in this case has for its purpose not a trial by court and a jury, but an order of the court predicated upon the assumption that what might be violated and by which the defendants may be brought before the court for trial and without a jury trial, by injury.

"We declare that the proceedings in this case are unwarranted, as they are unparalleled in the history of our country, and we demand that it is an injustice which not only the labor movement of the United States leans will repudiate and demand redress. The citizenship of our country will repudiate it. The establishment or maintenance of a precedent which will be the foundation of justice and freedom. To restore the confidence in the institutions of our country applied to the due courts, this injunction should be immediately set aside and cleansed from so outrageous a proceeding.

"Given all the facts in the case the miners' strike is justified. We indorse it. We are interested of the justice of the miners' cause. We pledge to the miners the full support of the American Federation of Labor and appeal to the workers and the friends of our country to give this endorsement and aid to the men engaged in this momentous struggle."

INJUNCTION JUDGES CAN'T STOP UNREST

Madison Wis., Nov. 11.—"There are between 2,000,000 and 3,000,000 men on strike in this country and the person who attempts to ascribe that fact solely to the agitator is wholly superficial," says the Capital Times, which declares that the real reason for this condition is economic exhaustion of the people.

"Government authorities who seek to cure this condition with the injunction and the sedition law are but adding fuel to the fire," says the editor.

"Shallow, indeed, is he who seeks to dismiss present industrial conditions by a little 'red' scare, by agitation, 'reds,' soap box orators and the overworked Schiebelism.

"To attribute present conditions to the handiwork of these individuals is to underestimate the intelligence of the unemployed.

"Let it time to stop this delusion which, is being fed to the American people by a press that is ignorant of the real situation and to look at this condition calmly and with an eye to the removing the causes rather than bringing the present day conditions."

The Times answers the question as to know that, after all, the present unrest has found birth in the stated "weakness in our economic system?

"What other conclusion can a thinking man arrive at than that our present situation is due to the fact that we have come to the low point with an industrial autocracy that has overstepped the mark in the exploitation of the people?

"There is no doubt but that industrial unrest and the American newspapers have prejudiced the American people against the miners. It is because that sentiment has been established that government authorities have been encouraged to take the course which they are now following."

MUST USE CAUTION.

Boston, Nov. 15.—The national industrial conference board, representing a group of large employing organizations, has surveyed the operation of works councils and shop organizations in various parts of the country and in its report warns employers against "spurious" works councils that the employes should be permitted to function effectively and is practicable" to allay their suspicions.

The report says that where these works councils are initiated by the employer his motive should be frank to overcome this situation, the employers are advised to use this organization with caution and allow employes as large a share as practicable in the development of the project."

STRIKERS IN CITY HALL.

Bellaire, Ohio, Nov. 15.—While conditions are quiet here, though organized labor is strong and thoroughly in control in western Pennsylvania, which denies free speech and free assemblage to its citizens, the officials of the Carnegie Steel company on strike in this city maintain headquarters in the city hall.

When the strike began a room in the city hall was rented from Mayor Culbertson for $10 a month. Later the city council voted to give the room rent free.

The strikers show there has been no violence here. City officials look upon them as citizens who have lost none of their rights because they happen to be on strike to enforce improved working conditions.

RALPH V. BRANDT IS DEAD.

Cleveland, Nov. 15.—Ralph V. Brandt, general secretary of the Wood, Wire and Metal Lathers' international union, died in this city. Funeral services and interment were at Huntington, Ind. Deceased was well known in the trade union movement and employed a wide acquaintanceship because of his stirring qualities.

PICTURE FRAME MEN GAIN.

San Francisco, Nov. 15.—Officers of the labor council assisted striking picture frame workers to compromise their demand for improved conditions.

WIRE MEN UNITE.

Hannibal, Mo., Nov. 15.—Railroad electricians employed on the Burlington railroad have organized.

"Broken Pledge and Bad Faith" Charged Against Administration

Washington, Nov. 15.—The administration is charged with "broken pledge and bad faith" by the executive council of the A. F. of L. because of its position in the miners' strike.

The labor officials specifically resolved the strike order, in compliance with the injunction issued by Judge Attorney General Palmer declared, in a public statement, that "the coal strike is a plain violation of the federal statute."

The executive council made this statement:

"The executive council notes the fact that in the statement issued by Attorney General Palmer, which, because of what we consider, the false statement issued by the executive council of the A. F. of L. Nov. 1, and published in the newspapers Monday, Nov. 10, that the attorney general concedes in the main the correctness of principles involved in the restraining order and the injunction features of the injunction issued by Judge Anderson, but that Mr. Palmer takes issue with the assertion made by the executive council that a pledge was made by the government officials and by members of congress that the Lever act was never intended to apply to the activities of wage earners engaged in any strike or lockout relative to wages, hours or conditions of employment, and that the Lever act would not be applied by the government to wage earners engaged in such activities.

"The attorney general evades and ignores the broken pledges and bad faith of the administration in respect to these facts."

CAN'T STRIKE AT WILL.

Harrisburg, Pa., Nov. 15.— White trade unionists believe they have the right to strike, Governor Sproul absolute, according to Attorney General Brown, who has just completed a conference with the governor.

"While the right to strike in all lawful industries, under normal circumstances, cannot be denied," said the speaker, "there are some callings so closely related to the life, liberty and security of the people that the right to strike in these cases must be subordinated to the higher right of the people to enjoy uninterrupted service."

The speaker emphasized the rights of the public. He made no mention of the duties of the public when employes strike. He said the duty of the public in these cases until employes are forced to suspend work.

In opposing the declaration of the Pennsylvania state federation of labor for a general strike to secure free speech in this state, the attorney general said "the guaranty of free speech must be carefully preserved," and that "the right to strike, because "lawful remedies are at hand."

A delegation of Pittsburg trade unionists recently called on the attorney general and state officials in the interest of free speech, but as yet no action has been taken and they have not been applied and gag law, enforced by mobs of business men as was the case in Bellaire, Ohio, and throughout western Pennsylvania.

PROFITEER TRAPPED.

San Pedro, Texas, Nov. 15.—The Labor Advocate reports more troubles of one profiteer:

"Weslaco, Texas, furnishes us with a good profiteer story. It all started with a felony case brought against Mr. Hagenbuch, a dealer in all sorts of clothes valued by the merchant at $65. At least that was the price he asked and sold it for and the sum was $15 over the maximum needed to make the alleged act a felony. At the suggestion of his lawyer, the negro, instead of denying the charge, said he had taken from the stolen suit and showed that the buttons, pockets and lining bore the mark indicated a cost price of $15. When the merchant learned of this defense he sent for the district attorney and had the whole case thrown out."

SOLDIERS ARE AIDED.

Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, Nov. 15.—The government announces that 1,800 grants of land have been made to each soldier for clearing and improving allotments of land for agriculture purposes. The work is done under government supervision under the commonwealth land settlement act. Of this total, $750 may be used for the purchase of live stock and $50 for tools. The training farms pay the soldiers $10 a week while the land is being prepared for cultivation. The settler is allowed for the purchase of the necessaries of life, and when the settler is working for the first crop.

AT TOP SPEED NOW.

San Francisco, Nov. 15.—Organized cracker bakers have rejected the employers' offer that wages be raised 50 cents a day if they increase their output by using five additional barrels of flour a day. The bakers declare this is not a wage increase and that they are working at top speed now.

EDUCATION LAGS.

Washington, Nov. 15.—The teacher problem gets worse instead of better says Kelson Lane, head of the United States bureau of education. It is due to low salaries, low educational standards and a failure of the public to recognize the importance of the teaching profession. Of the 600,000 teaching positions in the public schools about one-fifth are filled by teachers below standard, with the attendance at teacher-training schools 20 per cent below normal, and the situation causes School Life to ask:

"Is this, or is it not, a problem in which the national government is concerned?"

California shows a combined shortage and below standard of 2 1-3 per cent. Massachusetts shows 1-2 per cent and Illinois 7 per cent. In at least one state, Arizona, more than one-third of their schools are reported either without teachers or being taught by persons below the standards.

Nearly all superintendents report that teachers' salaries have not increased in proportion to the increased cost of living, that they are leaving for other vocations, and that the teachers are taking up other work.

"WHY THE MEN STRUCK."

New York, Nov. 15.—Tucked away in its financial section the New York Evening Post has a story for labor interests, giving business men this information:

"One of the steel manufacturers realize quite well that all the strikers are not bolsheviki. Many of the men who quit work did not like the conditions under which they were working. The men had to work for various reasons. There were men who struck, definitely and precisely, for shorter hours, but with no thought of accepting one cent per day less pay. There were gradual raises and semi-skilled men, surely with enough intelligence to have definite ideas of what they possessed in the way and the proportion of such men was large. This has been kept quite in the mouth of the discussion of the strike."

LINE UP WITH LABOR.

New York, Nov. 15.—Drug clerks here have organized a local union, with organization and affiliated with the trade union movement.

The clerks are now on strike. It is stated that 500 druggists have agreed to the new scale—$25 a week and an eight-hour day.

MATTRESS WORKERS GAIN.

Wichita, Kan., Nov. 15.—The Mattress Workers' union has succeeded in establishing a higher standard of working conditions.

STRIKING TAILORS WIN.

Tampa, Fla., Nov. 15.—The newly-organized Journeymen Tailors' union has established the 48-hour week and a wage rate of $28 and $30 a week.

CIGAR MAKERS GAIN.

Dayton, Ohio, Nov. 15.—Organized cigar makers in this city have raised wages 25 per cent.

Thug Detective Agency Unmasked; Started Riots; Posed As Conciliator

Chicago, Nov. 15.—Five taxi loads of policemen and detectives, directed by States Attorney Hoyne, raided the offices of the Sherman Service, arrested 45 people and confiscated a mass of letters and documents. The Sherman Service advertises itself as "labor conciliators," and has branch offices in New York, Philadelphia, Toronto, St. Louis, Cleveland, Detroit, Boston and New Haven.

The charge of conspiracy to foment race riots and other forms of violence, together with the wholesale destruction of property as part of a program to break the steel strike, was made in a statement by the states attorney, whose attention was first called to the Sherman outfit by Edward Noebels, secretary of the Chicago federation of labor. The state attorney named the Illinois Steel company and the Illinois Manufacturers' Ass'n of America in connection with the work of the conspirators. The specific charge against the detective agency is that it employed thugs to stir up race riots, that the strikes exist in order to bring about the use of federal troops.

According to the state attorney, R. V. Phillips, with the title of "commissioner of the interior" of the thuggery. He directed the sluggers, the smashing of windows, the attempted wrecking and burning of buildings and the fomenting of racial prejudice among the strikers, while professing to engage in the business of a conciliator.

The telephone wire to Phillips' luxurious home was tapped and conversations with the sluggers recorded. In one instance operator No. 132 reported to the advisory director from South Chicago that he had located a four-story wooden building filled with lump black.

Phillips replied: "I am glad you are keeping your eyes open. That would be a good place for a fire."

Among the documents seized by the police was a copy of this letter forwarded on October 29 to C. A. Stillman, assistant to the president of the Steel and Tube Company of America:

"Being desirous of bringing the results about as quickly as possible, regards is now being spread among the workers each nationality being approached and advised in their own language of contemplated action by other nationalities.

"Efforts are also being made to create as much mutual dislike as possible by causing the Poles to distrust the Italians and Serbians, by causing the Serbians to distrust the Italians and Poles, and by causing the Serbians to fight among themselves, the Croatians and Roumanians, and by causing each other nationalities thoroughly to distrust Americans, the desired results will be brought about more quickly by the use of federal troops."

The methods employed by these thugs, who posed as "labor conciliators," seem satisfactory to business men who have employed them to engage advertisement in local newspapers. The police did not guilty to the charges and say:

"Sherman Service officials were placed in defendant classification during the conscription (at the request of the government) and acted as a essential to the maintenance of our national interests."

SENATORS BLAME GARY; INDICTMENT BLUNTED

Washington, Nov. 15.—In its report on the steel strike the United States senate committee on education and labor declared that the workers have the right to have representatives of their own choosing submit their grievances to employers.

Judge Gary's rejection of this principle caused the steel strike. He refused to deal with his employes in a collective capacity and refused to meet representatives of the steel workers to discuss wages, hours, working condition and collective bargaining.

With this position the senators show impatience and they seem to think the spirit of Judge Gary's autocracy. In effect, they give this to the steel magnate from all that Colonel Mapes immediately telegraphed that federal troops in Gary are there in the interest of the steel trust and not interested in the steel strike. The president's reply is to subpoena," he said.

The Daily News was then called upon and the unionists were informed that the statement was made in the presence of Attorney General Palmer, who then referred the matter to Secretary Wilson. The report of the government that on the face of the telegrams received "the evidence is wholly insufficient."

This reply was received from the secretary:

"Upon receipt of your telegram October 26, Colonel Mapes was at once communicated with.

"He repeated his statement that he had no official information and that he stated that he did give certain information to various press representatives concerning the situation at the reds in Gary, but that at no time did he state that the labor unions knew the strike was manoeuvred by the reds in the strike situation.

"Evidence in the possession of my representatives indicates that these reds in the strike situation are in the press of conditions at Gary and in the editorial statements of the military authorities.

"My representatives are having me constantly in touch with the situation."

COAL VS. STEEL.

Washington, Nov. 15.—In response to a query by Joliet (Ill.) steel workers, why the government does not bring to trial the 12 men indicted by the federal grand jury at Chicago, Attorney General Palmer replied that the law does not prohibit the strike of the steel workers while it does expressly prohibit any concert of action by the miners to that purpose."

The attorney general said there is no law being violated in the steel strike and if there was "I should not hesitate to act against either the steel corporation or the strikers."

Mr. Palmer also declared that the government has its eye on the steel strike, "and will act immediately if the fact," says the attorney general, "that during the month of October a large number of the reserves upon which the government contends the steel corporation is a violation of law."

Despite this announcement, Judge Gary has not been reported as moving any meals.

UNION COLLEGE OPENS.

Washington, Nov. 15.—A trade union college, to be attended by workers of the District of Columbia has opened its doors for the winter. The subjects for study will include labor law, the history of the labor movement and economics, with special attention to the labor problem. The course includes labor contracts, co-operation, workmen's compensation and similar questions. Lectures will be delivered to each subject, one hour for lecture and two hours for study and for general discussion. The instructions will be from the viewpoint of the worker and the trade unionist. It is also the trade unionists and also provides for social and educational activities in this city.

CO-OPS. FEDERATE.

Cape Town, South Africa, Nov. 15.—A large number of independent co-operative societies have associated themselves in a federation with $50,000 capital. The government has loaned the movement a large sum of money and provided that the federation shall supply the farmers' requirements direct from the factories and abroad, thereby eliminating intermediate profits.

BARBERS RAISE WAGES.

Dubuque, Iowa, Nov. 15.—A new wage scale negotiated by the journeymen barbers' international union of America and 6 per cent of the receipts over $18. The old rate was $3 a week and 6 per cent of the receipts over $18. The new rate will be $3 a week and 6 per cent of the receipts over $20. The old rate was $3 a week and 6 per cent of the receipts over $18. The new rate will be $3 a week and 6 per cent of the receipts over $20.

SOLON CHANGES MIND; GOMPERS ASKS REASON

Washington, Nov. 15.—Why did Senator Cummins, in 1914, vote against the passage by the senate of the declaration that "the labor of a human being is not a commodity or article of commerce," and in 1919 urges the wholesale application of that principle?

The above query is submitted by President Gompers in writing in the American Federationist.

"What, pray, has transpired since 1914 to change the mind of the senator from the position of striking the shackles from off the wrists of labor to that again reforged them to enslave the toilers?" asks the head of the A. F. of L.

"The anti-strike provision of the Cummins bill would be preposterously unjust and tyrannical. It is the highest concept of American justice and democracy that labor would be futile. Men will move out of a burning house. Men will strike under intolerable conditions which make life impossible. Men will strike to free their lives from throw tyranny. Men will strike against injustice which is one of several forms of slavery.

"It may be said to the honorable gentlemen who approve the principle that this is the year 1919, which marks a considerable advance over the year 1620; that we have just fought a great war to destroy the concept and practice of autocratic rule and to establish the right of democracy. It is the right of democracy to attempt to remedy for Americans the thing which Americans have so thoroughly abominated and discredited. The Cummins bill seeks to introduce into American industry the slave concept. American workers are determined upon progress—orderly, democratic progress. The building and the lash can never come back. If labor is required to serve it has no justice, then there must be the right to strike. Public policy is fixed on that point. Public opinion demands that the right to strike must remain inviolate. Organized labor will not countenance its abrogation."

COSSACKS ENRAGE MINERS.

Wheeling, W. Va., Nov. 15.—Governor Cornwell's state militia will guard three non-union mines in this state and the miners became so enraged that they struck. Ten days later the mine boss at a Warwood mine was shot to death and 30 miners joined him. At Edgewood the miners struck when Governor Cornwell located near McMechen nearly 700 quit work.

A wave of resentment is sweeping through the community at Governor Cornwell's action in calling out the Mingo Majority, which declares that the governor has supported the cause of unorganized miner, employed at the properties "guarded" by the cossacks, to quit work.

TO HOUSE WORKERS.

Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, Nov. 15.—An elaborate housing scheme for the benefit of workers has been undertaken by the government at the suggestion of the labor party. Under the plan houses costing $2,000 are constructed by the government and sold to the workers on easy terms, a deposit of $6.60, or 5 per cent of the cost. The payments are spread over the building in 20 years and includes the premium on a state life insurance policy. The houses are restricted to wage earners whose net incomes, after deducting the cost of living, are less than $1,250 a year. A deposit of $25 is required from the earner to occupy one of the houses.

HOW ABOUT JUSTICE?

Washington, Nov. 15.—Writing in the Evening Star, of this city, one of the editors of the publication says:

"Writing with knowledge of the attitude of labor, I may say that there is as a fact that there is deep sympathy for the men who work in the mines."

LEATHER WORKERS UNITE.

Kansas City, Mo., Nov. 15.—During the month of October the United Leather Workers' international union issued charters to locals in Cincinnati, Ohio; Elkhorn, W. Va., and Montreal, Canada.

LAUNDRY WORKERS STRIKE.

El Paso, Texas, Nov. 15.—About 300 girls employed by 15 laundries have organized to improve working conditions and pay they have been locked out. The wages of these girls have ranged from $4 to $.4 a week.

CO-OP. FOR R. R. CLERKS.

Oklahoma City, Okla., Nov. 15.—Railway clerks have formed a co-operative association with a capital stock of $25,000.